

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 5, 7-9 and 13-18 are now pending in this application, claims 3-4 having been cancelled and new claims 13-18 having been added by the present Amendment.

Claim Objections

Claim 5 was objected to because of inconsistent use of terminology. The Examiner suggests that the recitation “said selector is able to select another **file** identification number” should be changed to --said selector is able to select another **folder** identification number--. Claim 5 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion to obviate the objection thereto.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by **Rekimoto** (US 2003/0052907 A1). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection, to the extent it is considered to apply to the amended claims, is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to further define an information search mode selector to set an information search mode in which folder information numbers, a total number of files stored on the recording medium and a file count in a currently selected folder are detected and concurrently displayed in response to setting of the information search mode.

Support for this amendment is provided, e.g., by dial key 52 shown in Fig. 1 and described on page 8, lines 18-19 of the specification, and on page 13, lines 11-13 of the specification, which state “In the Step S81 [of the information search mode], a menu screen showing a plurality of detected folder Nos., the number of files in the currently reproducing folder and a total number of files configured are displayed on the monitor 30.” See also Fig. 3, step S25 and Fig. 6. Further support for these amendments to claim 1 is provided, e.g., on page 25, lines 2-5 and Figs. 18 and 19.

In the current rejection under §102, the Examiner relies on **Rekimoto**’s disclosure of a notebook-type personal computer having a built-in camera 23 and a slot 12 to accommodate a PCMCIA card (PC card), which is run using either Windows 95 or Windows 98 operating system. See, e.g., sections [0054], [0056] and [0064] of **Rekimoto**.

In summary, the Examiner relies on the camera and attached PC card of **Rekimoto** to teach the claimed “image reproducing apparatus” and “attacher to be attached with a recording medium,” respectively, and relies on the Windows 95 or 98 operating system to teach all of the folder and file management features of the claimed invention.

Further, it is noted that the Examiner supports the rejection using screen shots generating using Windows XP, and asserts that “fundamental features of Windows Explorer of Windows 95 or 98 are the same as those of Windows XP with respect to detecting, selecting and displaying the folder identification numbers and a count of [a] number of image files contained in each folder. If the Applicant requests [for, sic] evidence to support such features in Windows Explorer of Windows 95 or 98, the Examiner will provide evidence by generating the same

results as shown in Demos 1 to 5 in the next Office Action using Windows 95 or 98.” See Office Action, page 3, lines 10-16.

If the rejection is maintained, in order to complete the record and support the rejection with proper prior art, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide the results as shown in Demos 1 to 5 in the next Office Action using Windows 95 or 98.

Windows 95, 98 or XP

As shown on page 5 of the Office Action, the Windows XP operating system displays a list of folders (ID_123, ID_456 and ID_789) stored in a PC card attached to a computer, such as the notebook personal computer. When one of the displayed folder identification numbers (e.g., ID_123) is selected, a count of the number of image files stored in the selected folder is detected and displayed (see “2 objects” at the bottom left of the screen shown on page 5 of Office Action).

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to further define “an information search mode selector to set an information search mode, wherein folder identification numbers, the total number of image files recorded in the recording medium and a file count of image files managed by a currently selected folder are detected and concurrently displayed in response to setting of the information search mode.”

The Examiner applies the “PC Card Properties” information box of Windows (see Office Action, page 7, Demo 3) to teach displaying the total number of image files recorded in the PC Card. However, it is submitted that the “PC Card Properties” information box is displayed by

right clicking on the PC Card folder, and then selecting (i.e., clicking on) “Properties” in a pop-up menu.

In other words, unlike the presently claimed invention, the **Rekimoto** reference does not teach that folder identification numbers, the total number of image files recorded in the recording medium and a file count of image files managed by a currently selected folder are detected and concurrently displayed in response to setting of the information search mode. In contrast, it is submitted that selection of a folder identification number (e.g., ID_456 on page 6 of Office Action) produces only a display of the number of objects in the selected folder and not a total number of image files recorded on the recording medium.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, and claims 5, 7 and 9 which depend therefrom, patentably distinguish over the **Rekimoto** reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §102 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Rekimoto** in view of **Anderson et al.** (USP 6,507,363, previously cited).

It is respectfully submitted that **Anderson et al.** does not alleviate any of the deficiencies of **Rekimoto** set forth above. Therefore, claim 8 patentably distinguishes over the combination of **Rekimoto** and **Anderson et al.** for the same reasons as claim 1 by virtue of its dependency thereon.

New Claims

New claims 13-18 have been added by the present Amendment.

According to new claim 13, a reproducer reproduces a designated image file out of a plurality of image files which are managed by a plurality of folders formed in a recording medium when a reproduction mode is selected. A first detector detects folder identification numbers which respectively identify the folders formed in the recording medium when an information search mode is selected. A total number of the image files recorded in the recording medium is detected by a second detector in relation to a detecting process of the first detector.

A third detector detects a count of the number of image files managed by a folder corresponding to a designated folder identification number out of the folders formed in the recording medium. A displayer concurrently displays on a screen the folder identification numbers, the total number and the count which are respectively detected by the first detector, the second detector and the third detector. The designated folder identification number noted by the third detector is renewed by a renewer in response to a renewing operation.

Accordingly, the renewing operation is assisted by the folder identification numbers on the screen. Furthermore, the count on the screen is changed in response to the renewing operation, while the total number on the screen continues to indicate the same numerical value irrespective of the renewing operation. Therefore, it is possible to easily and quickly grasp a management state of the image files in the recording medium.

Rekimoto discloses a notebook computer which is installed with Windows 95 or 98. However, **Rekimoto** fails to disclose or remotely suggest the invention recited in claim 13 in

which the renewing operation is assisted by the folder identification numbers on the screen, the count on the screen is changed in response to the renewing operation, and the total number on the screen continues to indicate the same numerical value irrespective of the renewing operation.

Anderson et al. disclose automatically create a new folder in a recording medium when a current writing folder is full. However, **Anderson et al.** are also silent regarding the above described features recited in new claim 13.

Accordingly, it is submitted that new claim 13 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious over **Rekimoto** and **Anderson et al.**, whether taken alone or in combination. Therefore, claim 13 and dependent claims 14-18 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

Application No. 09/873,413
Art Unit: 2615

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 010728

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William M. Schertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Schertler" clearly legible.

William M. Schertler
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 35,348
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

WMS/dlt